

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**Examiner Interview*

The Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Nissa Westerberg for initiating a telephone interview, which was held today, and was attended by Examiner Westerberg and Ken Spina. The relationship between substituent "Y" as defined in claim 1 and the sulfate substituent in the elected species was discussed. The absence of an "R" group linking sulfate substituent "Y" to the polymer in the elected species, and the present amendment of claim 1, also were discussed. Examiner Westerberg agreed to provide an interview summary in the next action.

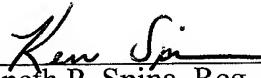
*Claim Amendment*

Claim 1 has been amended by deleting "-ROSO<sub>3</sub>R" and "-RNSO<sub>3</sub>R" so that the definition of "Y" reads: "Y represents an O or N-sulphonate group bound to A." As amended, claim 1 provides for the direct bonding of sulfonate "Y" to monomer "A" without an intervening linker "R." The elected species contains a sulfonate group bonded directly to monomer A via an oxygen atom. The elected species is therefore believed to fall within the scope of amended claim 1.

The amendment of claim 1 is supported by the specification as originally filed, e.g., Example I, paragraphs [0063]-[0087]. The specification discloses a direct sulfonation protocol (e.g., paragraphs [0070]-[0074]) as well as directly-sulfonated polymers (e.g., Tables 1 and 2, paragraphs [0081] and [0087], respectively). Paragraph [0065] explicitly mentions *O*-sulfonation.

Entry of this amendment and a favorable action on the merits are respectfully solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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